

Oak Class Newsletter

Autumn 2025

Welcome to Year 3! We hope you have had a fabulous summer, and that your children are looking forward to entering Key Stage 2 for the first time. If any of them are feeling anxious about starting a new school year, please reassure them that lots will remain unchanged from Year 2 to Year 3, and we'll be there every step of the way to support them with the bits that are different.

Adults in Year 3 are as follows:

Miss Dickinson – class teacher on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Mrs Cirillo – class teacher Tuesday

Miss Louise Lockyear – teaching assistant Monday to Friday

If you need to **contact us** about anything (no question is too silly), you can catch us at the door after school with any quick queries, or you can email us.

Miss Dickinson – cdickinson@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk

Mrs Cirillo – bcirillo@tewincowper.herts.sch.uk

Lunches and snack

From Year 3, children no longer get funded school lunches, unless they are entitled to free school meals. Each morning, children choose between red (meat), green (vegetarian), yellow (jacket potato) and blue (lighter bites) options, or packed lunch from home. Please make sure you have **funds in your Arbor account** if your child will be eating school lunches. They can mix and match school lunches and packed lunches throughout the week.

Fruit snack is no longer provided by the Government from Year 3. **Children may bring in their own snack, but this must be a piece of fruit.**

Drop off and collection

Drop off – between **8.35am and 8.45am**, at the side gate. Children walk through the playground to their classroom. Please try to be on time, because we will be doing phonics at the start of the day.

Collection – at **3.15pm**, from the Y2/Y3 cloakroom door (near the play equipment).

What to bring each day

- Water bottle (named)
 - Book bag (no rucksacks)
 - Reading folder (record and book)
 - Coat, sun hat (weather dependent)
- Please label ALL clothing!**

Home learning

Many parents ask how they can help their child at home. The answer to this is **read, read, and read some more!**

We really want families to focus primarily on reading, because it underpins *everything* the children learn in school. Reading supports writing, imagination, vocabulary, empathy comprehension, communication...to name but a few things!

Please aim to do the following **every day**:

- **Listen to** your child read, and **record this each time** in the reading record so we can see what they have been reading. A detailed comment each time is not necessary.
- **Read to/with** your child every day, and enjoy the experience together! This could be picture or chapter books, but could also include recipes, comics, letters, magazines, newspapers, etc.

Children will be reading in school (either with an adult or independently) a few times a week, so please make sure they bring in their reading folders **every** day, or they might miss their reading slot.

We will also be encouraging the use of Times Table Rockstars at home to support with times tables, and there will be other optional home learning projects and activities – watch this space!

Library

Children will be able to choose a book from the library to take home, share and enjoy. **Please ensure that this is back in their bookbag each week so they can swap it for a new book.** If they would like to keep it for longer than one week, they have the option to do this.

Class reading book

Our first whole-class reading for pleasure book will be **The Wild Robot** by Peter Brown. We will be enjoying some of this as a class each day. If your child would like to buy a copy of the book, or borrow one from the library, so they can follow it in class as we read, they are welcome to. This is not essential, though!

PE

PE in Year 3 will take place on **Wednesdays and Fridays**, and will take place from the first week back. Please make sure your child has the Tewin Cowper branded t-shirt and jumper. Children must come into school dressed in PE kit on those days.

They will be doing half of their PE lessons outside this first half term, so must be wearing clothing appropriate for the weather, as well as suitable trainers.

Autumn Term: learning overview

English

We will be looking at four main types of texts: narrative, poetry, fables, and non-chronological reports. We will begin by recapping skills they covered in Year 2, and then will be introducing and practising some brand new reading and writing skills!

Our first unit (narrative) will focus on the lovely picture book *Mini Rabbit Not Lost*, in which the children will be writing sentences using the coordinating conjunctions **and, or, but**, and the subordinating conjunctions **when, if, that, because**.

Other texts we will be using this term include:

- Words are Ours (poem)
- The Magic Box (poem)
- The Koala Who Could
- The Squirrels That Squabbled
- The Lion Inside
- Incredible Jobs You've (Probably) Never Heard of

PE

This first half term, the children will be doing both gymnastics and OAA (Outdoor Adventurous Activities). In Autumn 2, they will move onto PE Fundamentals and Ball Skills.

Maths

We follow the NCETM scheme, which aims to foster a deep understanding and mastery of mathematical concepts. We begin the term by repeating some of the core Year 2 content: adding and subtracting across 10.

Although it might sound as if we are backtracking a lot, these skills actually underpin working with much larger numbers, which the children do in the next unit: numbers to 1000. (Children find this VERY exciting when we introduce it!)

You can **support your child** with their **maths fluency** by practising things like:

- **Number bonds** to 10, 20, 50 and 100 (e.g. 3 and 7, 12 and 8, 35 and 15, and 44 and 56)
- **2, 5 and 10 times tables** – skip counting forwards and backwards, as well as knowing times table facts
- **Doubles and halves recall**

One Minute Maths is a brilliant app that gives children quick-fire questions to practise their maths fluency. It is free to download and use.

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>

Music

We will journey into South Africa, learning to play music from this country, with a particular focus on children's rhythmic, singing and notation skills.

Science

Our first unit is Movement and Nutrition. We start by learning about skeletons and muscles, how they work, and why they are needed. We move onto what humans and animals need to survive, with a particular focus on the role of food. Later in the term, we will cover Forces and Magnets.

History

Would you prefer to have lived in the Stone Age, Bronze Age or Iron Age? This journey into prehistory gets the children placing events on a timeline, drawing conclusions from archaeological evidence, and looking at how life changed for people across these time

Art

This term's focus is drawing. They will be using different shapes, shading and blending to create different effects. They will also try out a range of drawing materials, comparing the impact that each one creates.

Geography

Why do people live near volcanoes? They will learn about the layers of the Earth, how mountains are formed, and why earthquakes and volcanic eruptions take place. They will then consider the pros and cons of living in an area that experiences regular volcanic eruptions.

Design and Technology

In Textiles, children will be building on their sewing skills to create Egyptian collars. They will learn to use a running stitch, cross stitch, and applique. In Structures, they design a castle to suit a given purpose, then use scoring, cutting, gluing and assembly to turn their designs into models!

Computing

Online safety this term will look into opinions versus facts on the internet, and what children should do before they share any kind of information online. In the Computer Systems and Networks unit, they will learn what a network is, and how a website works. Later this term, they will take a journey inside a computer, recognising inputs and outputs, and explaining what an algorithm is.

PSHE

We start by thinking about our relationships with each other and others outside school. We move onto valuing difference: considering what makes us the same or different from.

French

Phonetics 1 will be covered alongside vocabulary including animals, instruments and ice creams.

RE

In our Creation unit, we will look at the world and consider why it is wonderful, thinking about what God wanted for it. Children will use discussion, writing, painting, photography and reflection to share their thoughts and ideas.